

A new species of swallow from Kenya

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On 4th April, 1965, a very large concentration of migrating swallows and martins was encountered along the eastern shores of Lake Naivasha, Rift Valley, Kenya. In addition to European breeding swallows the following African species were also present, *Hirundo angolensis*, *Hirundo daurica emini*, *Hirundo abyssinica*, *Hirundo griseopyga*, *Riparia paludicola* and *Riparia cincta* – of which two races were collected, *Riparia cincta suaehelica* van Somerern and *Riparia cincta erlangeri* Reichenow. In addition several examples of an unidentified grey-rumped swallow were seen: after some difficulty a single specimen of this bird was collected.

Hirundo andrewi sp. nov.

named in honour of the collector, Mr. Andrew E. Williams.

Type deposited in the British Museum (Natural History).

Type: adult female; skull fully ossified; ovary small; fat; weight 10 grammes.

Locality: Lake Naivasha, Rift Valley, Kenya. Altitude 6,000 feet; 4th April, 1965. Collector Andrew E. Williams.

Description: Crown and nape dark sooty-brown; lores and broad stripe through eye and ear-coverts dark blackish-brown; mantle slightly glossy blue-black; rump and upper tail-coverts brownish-grey; wings blackish; under wing-coverts and axillaries smoky-grey; tail blackish-brown and deeply forked, outer feathers long and attenuated, 25 mm. longer than 2nd longest rectrices; under parts from throat to under tail-coverts uniform smoky-grey with small black patch on each side of chest; bill relatively small and slender. Iris dark brown; bill and feet black. Stomach contents: Diptera.

Measurements: length in flesh 138 mm; exposed culmen 6 mm; width at base lower mandible 5 mm; wing 100 mm; tail 85 mm; tarsus 15 mm. In the field this new swallow somewhat resembles *Hirundo griseopyga* Sundevall, but is of more robust build and is easily distinguished by its smoky-grey under parts.

The fact that a specimen of the Ethiopian breeding race of *Riparia cincta* was collected alongside *Hirundo andrewi* suggests the possibility that the new species may breed in some ornithologically little-known part of Ethiopia. On a subsequent visit to Lake Naivasha, two days later, the migrant concentration had disappeared.

